

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 462
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS PINT PE
SUBJ: LEFTISTS STILL DEBATING WITHDRAWAL FROM CAMPAIGN

REF: LIMA 5158

1. PSR SPOKESMAN JOSE MARIA SALCEDO TOLD THE PRESS JUNE 12 THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE LEFT WERE FORMULATING A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THEIR POSITION REGARDING THE JUNE 18 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. SALCEDO CLAIMED THAT PSR WAS TALKING TO LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC), ACCION REVOLUTIONARIO SOCIALISTA (ARS), UNION DEMOCRATICO POPULAR (UDP), AND THE FRENTE OBRERO CAMPESINO ESTUDIANTEL Y POPULAR (FOCEP) TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THESE LEFTIST GROUPS WOULD TAKE PART IN SUNDAY'S ELECTIONS. AS OF NOON JUNE 13 NO RPT NO DECLARATION HAS BEEN MADE BY THIS GROUP. THE MOSCOW LINE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) SCHEDULED A MIDDAY PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 13 TO ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION REGARDING WITHDRAWAL BUT THEN POSTPONED MEETING THE PRESS UNTIL JUNE 14.

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2. VARIOUS LEFTIST PARTIES (PCP, ARS, UDP, PDC AND PSR) HAVE MADE TAPED PRESENTATIONS FOR TV. ALTHOUGH THEIR "PRE-CENSORED" PROGRAMS CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY MEASURES, REPRESSION AND CENSORSHIP AND THE PDC AND PSR RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE CAMPAIGN, (REFTEL) NONE OF THE SPEAKERS COMMITTED HIS PARTY IRREVOCABLY TO A PULL OUT. THE PCP SPEAKER JUNE 11, IN FACT, DID NOT RPT NOT MENTION THE SUBJECT NOR DID ARS

OR UDP SPOKESMEN JUNE 12.

3. JAVIER VALLE-RIESTRA OF APRA AND ROBERTO RAMIREZ DEL VILLA OF BEDOYA REYES PPC APPEARED ON TV JUNE 12 TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES. THE FIFTEEN MINUTE PRESENTATION OF APRA'S VALLE-RIESTRA WAS CUT BY ABOUT FIVE MINUTES EITHER BY ERROR OR BECAUSE OF CENSORSHIP. PPC CANDIDATE RAMIREZ DEDICATED HIS TIME TO EXPLAINING THE VOTING PROCESS PERHAPS REFLECTING PPC'S CONCERN OVER A RECENT POLL INDICATING THAT MORE THAN TWO THIRDS OF PPC SUPPORTERS COULD NOT RPT NOT IDENTIFY THE LETTER ("B") THEY SHOULD USE TO VOTE FOR THE PPC LIST.

4. IT NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT INDEPENDENT MAGAZINES WILL BE ABLE TO PUBLISH BEFORE THE JUNE 18 VOTE. IN THE ABSENCE OF GOP APPROVAL, THE DIRECTOR OF PERU'S MAJOR BIWEEKLY CARETAS DECIDED JUNE 12 NOT RPT NOT TO GO TO PRESS WITH THIS WEEK'S EDITION (PARA 4, REFTEL). WE KNOW OF NO OTHER INDEPENDENT NEWS MAGAZINE THAT HAS OBTAINED GOP PERMISSION TO PUBLISH THIS WEEK.

5. THE GOP INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS, IDENTIFICATION OF POLLING PLACES AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ARE GOING FORWARD. A PROBLEM IS ANTICIPATED IN THE SUNDAY BALLOTING BECAUSE PERU'S MATCH WITH POLAND IN THE WORLD CUP IS SCHEDULED FOR MIDDAY JUNE 18. ELECTORAL COMMISSION PRESIDENT HAS TOLD US ANY DECISION TO EXTEND VOTING HOURS FROM THE PRESENT 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M. PERIOD RESTS WITH THE GOP.
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6. COMMENT: WE THINK THAT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS SOME LEFTIST LEADERS MAY NOW WANT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE RACE. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THE TRADITIONALLY SPLINTERED LEFT CAN UNIFY TO BOYCOTT THE CONTEST AND WHETHER ESTABLISHED LEFTIST PARTIES SUCH AS THE PDC AND THE PCP WILL BE WILLING TO FOREGO A ROLE IN THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR MORE RADICAL BRETHREN.

DECONTROL DEC 1979. SHLAUDEMANN

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